

Message Text

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17
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 SSM-03 DHA-02

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R 291150Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7442
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMDMBASSY BEIRUT 7238
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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SUBJ: CAIRO DAILIES ON LEBANESE EVENTS

REF (A) CAIRO 13087, (B) CAIRO 13073,

SUMMARY: ATTENTION FOCUSED IN CAIRO ON SADAT'S CONDEMNATION
OF SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MOUNT LEBANON.
JUMBLATT VISIT RECEIVES WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE IN EGYPT BUT
CAIRO NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR SUPERSEDED BY MILITARY EVENTS IN
LEBANON. END SUMMARY

1. DESPITE WIDELY-PUBLICIZED SADAT DENUNCIATION OF SYRIAN
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OFFENSIVE IN MOUNT LEBANON DURING 28 SEPT SPEECH, DETAILS OF

ACTUAL EVENTS IN LEBANON LACKING IN SEPT 29 DAILIES, WHICH ONLY CARRY BOAST BY VISITING JUMBLATT THAT NATIONALIST/PALESTINIAN FORCES HAVE DESTROYED 23 SYRIAN TANKS AND ENTIRE INFANTRY BATTALION. ALL CAIRO DAILIES JOIN CONDEMNATION OF SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN ACTIONS IN METN AREA AND INDICATE THAT OFFENSIVE STEMS FROM SARG DESIRE TO TORPEDO POSSIBILITY OF LEBANESE MINI SUMMIT IN RIYADH. DAILIES ALSO REPORT OMINOUSLY THAT CHRISTIANS (EVEN PHALANGISTS) CURRENTLY RECONSIDERING REQUEST FOR FRENCH TROOPS TO SECURE CHRISTIAN AREA BECAUSE OF INEFFECTIVENESS OF AL FORCE.

2. CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION BEING FOCUSED ON JUMBLATT'S CAIRO SOJOURN, ALTHOUGH HIS IMPORTANCE DIMINISHED SOMEWHAT BY SYRIAN OFFENSIVE. TELEVISION COVERAGE OF SADAT SEPT 28 SPEECH SHOWED JUMBLATT SITTING FRONT ROW CENTER AND RECEIVING OVATION FROM AUDIENCE. DAILIES NOTE THAT AFTER SADAT SPEECH, JUMBLATT MET WITH PRIMIN SALIM AND MININFO OTEIFY. LATER, JUMBLATT, ACCOMPANIED BY LOCAL FATH REP AWADH, MET WITH SOVIET CHARGE AKOPOV. AFTER CAIRO VISIT, JUMBLATT REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ, AND FRANCE. DATE OF RETURN TO LEBANON NOT SPECIFIED. UPCOMING VISITS TO CAIRO OF RAYMOND EDDE, EX PRES HELOU, AND EX PRIMIN AL-YAFI MENTIONED IN SEPT 29 DAILIES, ALTHOUGH NO DATES FOR VISITS ANNOUNCED.

3. COMMENT: IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR GOE TO MAINTAIN SEMBLANCE OF MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS IN CAIRO IN FACE OF SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS. JUMBLATT, AS ONLY LEBANESE LEADER WHO HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY SYMPATHETIC TO CAIRO, APPROPRIATELY LIONIZED IN CAIRO DAILIES, ALTHOUGH NO INDICATION GIVEN RE WHAT JUMBLATT CAN PROPOSE TO END LEBANESE IMBROGLIO. IN WAKE OF SYRIAN ACTIONS, EGYPTIANS NOW CLAIMING THAT CAIRO HAD BEEN STAUNCH ADVOCATE OF SAUDI MINI SUMMIT, WHILE SARG HAD BEEN CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED AND HAS NOW DYNAMITED POSSIBILITY OF TALKS BY WILLFUL ACTIONS IN METN.
MATTHEWS

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